(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Criticism of Bullet Proof Jackets purchased by CAG

5114. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item 'CAG blasts bullet proof jackets purchase' appearing in the 'Statesman' dated 31st March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of this sub-standard defence purchase castigated by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard to identify person(s) responsible for the purchase and to initiate proceedings against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) relates to procurement of 32,800 bullet proof patkas whereas the news-item deals with bullet proof jackets.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Stoppage of manufacturing spares by Russia for IAF Fleet

†5115. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia have recently discontinued the manufacture of essential spare-part of the aircrafts supplied to Indian Air Force;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.